

## Messages

The ozone monitor at the Konza Prairie CASTNET site was discontinued on April 5 following requests from Mr. Rob Manes at The Nature Conservancy (the land owner) and Dr. Ron Trewyn of Kansas State University (the operating agency) . Because CASTNET monitors operate at the discretion of the land owner and operator, we are compelled to comply with these requests.

EPA is continuing discussions with KDHE regarding ozone data collection in central KS. We plan to evaluate option which range from supplementing the current CASTNET site with a research-based ozone monitor to locating a population exposure-based monitor in Manhattan, KS.

Compliance ozone monitoring at the CASTNET site for the previous 2 years indicate no violations of the health based ozone NAAQS. Research-based ozone data collection prior to that time shows short-term spikes related to Flint Hills fires and more predominant spikes during the summer (non-burn season) presumably related to long-range pollutant transport. EPA conducted HYSPLIT trajectories which confirm the influence of long range transport on the ozone monitor.

Given this latest event, the public may want to review the KS monitor network plan which will be public noticed this spring to provide comments regarding any concerns they may have on ozone monitor coverage.

The CASTNET site was never a part of the state air monitor network plan. It is not required to meet the min regulatory ozone monitor requirements. According to 40 CFR Part 58, there are no ozone monitors required near the Manhattan area; however, that could change with EPA's review of the 2008 ozone standard which is scheduled to conclude at the end of this year.

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## Sierra Club Statements

There's a real need for EPA and KDHE to understand why this [monitored high ozone concentrations] is happening, and one cannot do that without collecting the data."

There may be other future opportunities to collect this data. As we have discussed, we are exploring these. Meanwhile, statistical analyses show good correlation between the Konza site and the Cedar Bluffs and Topeka KNI site. These sites can be used as surrogates for ozone concentrations while we explore and hopefully implement data collection alternatives.

In their 2010 Smoke Management Plan KDHE promised to consult with the Centers for Disease Control to develop a more comprehensive study on the potential health impacts of the burning in the Flint Hills. The discontinuance of the Konza Prairie monitor will likely complicate that task.

KDHE indicated that they were in discussion with CDC about a grant. I do not believe any promises were made. CDC typically looks backward in order to conduct these analyses, thus, TNC's request to remove the ozone monitor should not affect any potential future TNC study.

"What's needed here is a focus on protecting the health of the residents in and around Manhattan, Kansas," added Volland. The Kansas Chapter is prepared to help find an alternate location in the Manhattan area if KDHE and EPA are unable to resolve this situation in short order.

EPA and KDHE are currently discussing options to continue ozone data collection. This site was never intended to be representative of public exposure. In our discussion with KDHE about alternatives, one of the options we are discussing is an ozone monitor to be placed in Manhattan, KS. Such a site would be more appropriate in reflecting and therefore protecting public exposure.